

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 00547 112047Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /061 W
-----112051Z 013370 /64
O R 112016Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2428
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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POUCHED TO ALL OTHER CONSULATES IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, CA
SUBJECT: QUEBEC ASPECTS OF FEB 10 TRUDEAU PRESS CONFERENCE

1. AT WEEKLY PRESS CONFERENCE FEB 10, PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU INDICATED THAT, ALTHOUGH AGENDA NOT FINALIZED FOR TALKS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, DISCUSSION OF QUEBEC SEPARATISM WOULD LIKELY TAKE PLACE. THIS, TRUDEAU SUGGESTED, IS TO BE EXPECTED SINCE "I KNOW QUESTION OF POSSIBLE BREAK-UP OF CANADA MUST BE INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT, NOT ONLY IN WASHINGTON, BUT IN MOST CAPITALS OF WORLD...I AM SURE ONE WOULD BE NAIVE TO THINK PRESIDENT IS NOT INFORMED AND CONCERNED ABOUT THIS." TRUDEAU INDICATED US MIGHT BE WORRIED ABOUT CANADIAN BREAK-UP SINCE ANY NEW NATIONS FORMED COULD "BECOME A SPHERE OF INFLUENCE FOR VARIOUS COUNTRIES" BUT HE NOTED HE HAD NO IDEA WHAT QUEBEC'S FOREIGN POLICY MIGHT BE SHOULD IT BECOME INDEPENDENT AND STRESSED HYPOTHETICAL NATURE OF TOPIC.

2. TRUDEAU OBSERVED EXISTENCE OF SEPARATIST PARTY HAD CREATED ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTIES IN QUEBEC OVER PAST SEVERAL YEARS AND, WITH THE PARTI QUEBECOIS (PQ) NOW IN POWER, "GREAT NUMBER OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HEAD OFFICES AND INDIVIDUALS" ARE MOVING THEIR BUSINESS HEAD-QUARTERS OR BANK ACCOUNTS FROM QUEBEC TO ONTARIO. HE REPEATED THEME THAT QUEBEC REFERENDUM SHOULD BE SOON TO CUT SHORT UNCERTAINTY, BUT WOULD NOT BE SPECIFIC AS TO TIME. HE INDICATED THAT REFERENDUM "SHOULD NOT BE NECESSARILY HELD THIS MONTH OR EVEN THIS YEAR."

3. COMMENT: THERE HAVE BEEN NUMBER OF RUMORS ON MOVEMENT OF
HEAD OFFICES AND SAVINGS FUNDS OUT OF QUEBEC, BUT EMBASSY
IS UNAWARE OF ANY HARD FIGURES. WE ASSUME TRUDEAU WAS OPERATING
MORE ON FEEL THAN FACT IN REFERRING TO "GREAT NUMBER" MOVING
FROM QUEBEC TO ONTARIO.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECESSION, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Litigation History:
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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, CA, (TRUDEAU, PIERRE-ELLIOTT)
To: STATE
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